

## **Starla Kiser**

**East Tennessee State University**  
Johnson City, TN

**Biology (Pre-Medicine)**  
**Minors: Geography & Humanities**  
Bachelor of Science, May 2006

**NASA Academy Research Project:**  
**The Role of Beta1 Integrin**  
**in Mechanosensing and Bone Health**

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ruth Globus



### **Education:**

I have always possessed an immense curiosity of the worlds beyond our own. It is that sheer grandeur of space that has captivated me for years and spawned my interest in space medicine. On the threshold of manned missions to other planets, it is necessary that the astronauts be healthy and able to aptly concentrate in the most intense of conditions, including microgravity and radiation exposure. Indeed, it would be extremely rewarding to spearhead technological innovations that can launch mankind into the incalculable expanse of space and simultaneously better the lives of those on earth.

As a junior at East Tennessee State University majoring in Biology with minors in Humanities and Geography, I am able to explore a vast array of interests--from courses in biochemistry to the history of jazz and geology. The classes that seem to amplify my curiosity the most, however, are those dedicated to the origin and evolution of life—a staple of astrobiology. In addition to the B.S. I am acquiring at ETSU, I am also completing a certification in Geographic Information Science. Furthermore, I participate in a variety of clubs and organizations including the Biology Honors Program, Admissions Ambassadors, Leadership House, and Gamma Beta Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Phi Kappa Phi Honors Societies.

### **Experience:**

I first became interested specifically in the study of astrobiology after spending a 2003 summer internship in the Wise DEVELOP program affiliated with the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. Through DEVELOP, part of the NASA Earth

Science Enterprise, students learn to create 3D visualizations using satellite imagery and other remote sensing technology. Moreover, I am a deputy circuit court clerk, civil marriage celebrant (quite an entertaining job!), and notary public. I am also an intern at an engineering firm, Anderson & Associates, where I utilize GIS technology to coordinate solutions to community problems.

**Extra-curricular Activities:**

My leisure activities include horseback riding, playing basketball, belly dancing, and playing piano. I also love swimming and water sports in general, although I don't get much of that from the mountains at home. The mountains do, however, provide a great environment for another favorite activity of mine—hiking. Furthermore, I love to travel. Prior to my arrival in California, I hope to vacation in Europe. I am also involved in an abundance of volunteer activities including Operation Christmas Child, the FreshStart Program (assist volunteer doctors perform reconstructive surgeries), ETSU campus tours, etc.